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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TrueSchool Selects 20 Schools for Education Innovation Fellowship in North Carolina

TrueSchool is proud to announce the selection of 20 schools in North Carolina to participate in its 2018-2019 TrueSchool Innovation Fellowship. The project, fully funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, is an intensive, collaborative effort aimed at improving literacy among students, pre-kindergarten to 3rd grade.

Eve Trotter, a literacy specialist at B.H. Tharrington Primary School, one of the chosen participants, said the fellowship provides a unique opportunity to “innovate and improve the academic environment. We will use this to initiate sustainable change in the way that teachers and leaders in our district think about and approach early literacy instruction,” Trotter said.

The TrueSchool Innovation Fellowship provides a \$15,000 scholarship per school to cover the full cost of year-long programmatic and coaching support. Only two states, North Carolina and Nebraska, and 20 schools within each of these two states, were selected.

Selected schools will each create teams made up of 3 to 6 members, including the principal and at least 2 teacher leaders. These teams, with the assistance of TrueSchool’s specialized program and experienced coaches, will “lead a school-wide innovation effort with a focus on equity, academic achievement, social-emotional support, and 21st century learning” said TrueSchool CEO Amy Vreeland. “Educators working on the ground know their school, student, and community needs best. We provide the time, process, and support to enable their leadership potential to flourish and their bold ideas to come to life.”

The chosen participants in North Carolina represent a mixture of suburban, urban and rural school districts from across the state. Of the 10,408 students attending these academic institutions, 5,454 are minority students, while 4,954 are white. A majority of students at all but 4 of the chosen schools receive free or reduced lunch.

The selected schools, all elementary schools, include: Trent Park, Havelock, A.H. Bangert and J.T. Barber in Craven County School District; Coker-Wimberly in Edgecombe County Public Schools; Bessemer City Central and Hawks Nest STEAM Academy in Gaston County Schools; Micro, East Clayton, West Smithfield, Benson and Four Oaks in Johnston County Public Schools; B. H. Tharrington Primary in Mount Airy City Schools; Winter Park, College Park, Pine Valley and Murrayville in New Hanover County Schools; E.D. Koontz and Overton in Rowan Salisbury School System; and Walnut Creek in the Wake County Public School System.

“Johnston County Public Schools is excited to be a part of the TrueSchool experience,” said Brandon Garland, innovation officer for Johnston County Public Schools. “We believe this opportunity will benefit the students and staff of our participating schools.”

TrueSchool, based in New Orleans, has worked with over 1,500 educators in 108 schools who are effecting change for more than 200,000 students in cities across the United States, including Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Oakland.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, founded in 1930, is one of the world’s largest private foundations. It works with communities around the world to improve conditions for vulnerable children.

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